

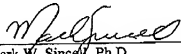
REMARKS

Claims 8-10, 16, 19-21, 27, 38-40, and 45 have been previously allowed by the Examiner. In the Office Communication, the Examiner noted that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences has affirmed the prior rejections of claims 1-2, 4, 6, 11-13, 17, 22-24, 28, 30-31, 34, and 41-42. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled these claims. However, as also noted by the Examiner, the Board reversed the remaining rejections. Applicants have amended claims 3, 5, 7, 14-15, 18, 25-26, 29, 32-33, and 43-44 and respectfully submit that all claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4052 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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Mark W. Sincell, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 52,226
Williams Morgan & Amerson, P.C.
10333 Richmond Avenue, Suite 1100
Houston, TX 77042
(713) 934-7000
(713) 934-7011 (Fax)

AGENT FOR APPLICANTS